

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 11, 2015

Agenda Item: Blackfoot River Corridor Administrative Rule

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background

On March 12, the Fish & Wildlife Commission approved for public comment proposed additions to a recreational use rule for the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor in accordance with an agreement between FWP and landowners. The Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor Agreement has been in existence since 1976 but there hasn't been a public process or a rule in place. There was consensus among landowners for an agreement that would recognize the Blackfoot Corridor as a special recreation area with specific regulations to manage use.

Public Involvement Process & Results

A public meeting was held on April 30 and a hearing on May 6. The public comment period ended on May 8. FWP received a total of five public comments. In response, FWP recommends changing the proposed language to address concerns about land-use regulations on private land. These regulations were routinely applied to the Corridor as per the agreement and allowed for FWP to apply public use rules to areas within the ordinary high water mark in the Corridor. The proposed change would allow FWP to also apply these regulations on private property 50 feet above the high water mark in the Corridor.

Alternatives and Analysis

- 1) The Commission adopts the recreational use rules, with FWP's recommended changes, for the Blackfoot River Corridor in accordance with the agreement established by landowners.
- 2) The Commission does not adopt the rule and FWP does not sign the agreement and forgoes allowance of public use on private lands. Public use would be managed under the current Stream Access Law.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends Alternative 1. This would satisfy landowners, agencies and the public. This agreement and associated regulations allow for more effective management of the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission adopt the Blackfoot River Recreation Corridor administrative rules with FWP's changes.